

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/025 W

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R 082125Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3893

UNCLAS CARACAS 8321

ATTN: COM/BEWT/OEWPP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, XG, XK, XR, XS

SUBJ: CUBAN TRADE WITH VENEZUELA

REF: STATE 157039

1. GIVEN BELOW IS ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION REGARDING VENEZUELAN-CUBAN TRADE FOR THE YEAR 1975. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FOR 1976. WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE A BREAKDOWN ACCORDING TO NE DIGIT SITC CATEGORIES NOR ACCORDING TO AG-NONAG CATEGORIES DUE TO THE FACT THAT STATISTICAL DATA AVAILABLE TO US IS BROKEN DOWN ACCORDING TO SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL PRODUCT AND NOT BY COUNTRY, OTHER THAN THE GRAND TOTAL FOR A QUARTER. THE FOLLOWING STATISCS APPLY:

A. VENEZUELAN IMPORTS FROM CUBA

PERIOD	WEIGHT (KILOGRAMS)	VALUE BOLIVARES)
JANUARY-MARCH 1975	7,831	66,835
APRIL-JUNE 1975	11,922	382,183
TOTAL FOR PERIOD JANUARY-JUNE 1975	19,753	449.018

B. VENEZUELAN EXPORTS TO CUBA

PERIOD	WEIGHT (KILOGRAMS)	VALUE (BOLIVARES)
JANUARY-MARCH 1975	3,500,049	5,418,308

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APRIL-JUNE 1975	20,000,007	30,960,245
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TOTAL FOR PERIOD JANUARY-JUNE 1975 23,500,056 36,378,553

2. STATE AND/OR COMMERCE MAY BE INTERESTED IN CONSIDERING AN EXCHANGE OF COMPUTER MAGNETIC TAPES ON A SEMI-ANNUAL OR ANNUAL BASIS WITH THE VENEZUELAN FOREIGN TRADE INSITUTE (INSTITUTO DE COMERCIO EXTERIOR-ICE), AN AUTONOMOUS ENTITY UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPILING TRADE STATISTICS, EXCEPT THOSE PERTAINING TO PETROLEUM AND IRON, FOR THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AND IS SIX TO NINE MONTHS MORE UP-TO-DATE THAN OTHER SOURCES. HAVING SUCH TAPES WOULD MEAN THAT BASIC STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING VENEZUELAN TRADE, SUCH AS CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT AND IN OTHERS SUCH AS CERP 1211-TRADE WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, COULD BE FULFILLED ON A MORE TIMELY AND UP-TO-DATE BASIS. THE EMBASSY DID NOT REQUEST SUCH STATISTICAL INFORMATION DIRETCLY FROM ICE IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL DUE TO THE FACT THAT ICE HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO CHARGE FOR ANY SERVICES RENDERED. IN THE PAST RESPONSES BY ICE TO EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR STATISTICAL INFORMATION WERE IN THE FORM OF COMPUTER PRINT-OUTS, AND WERE PROVIDED TO THE EMBASSY GRATIS. SUCH PRINT-OUTS WOULD NOW COST UP TO \$1,000, DEPENDING UPON COMPUTER "UP" TIME AND MAN-HOURS USED IN COMPILATION OF REQUESTED DATA. ICE HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF MAGNETIC COMPUTER TAPES ON A MONTHLY BASIS, BUT WAS TURNED DOWN BY THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS. ICE NOW BUYS MAGNETIC COMPUTER TAPES FROM THE BUREAU OF CENSUS ON A MONTHLY BASIS, BUT IS STILL INTERESTED IN EXCHANGING MAGNETIC TAPES OF BOTH IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE STATISTICS ON AN ANNUAL OR SEMI-ANNUAL BASIS. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS REGARDING INTEREST THAT STATE AND/OR COMMERCE MAY HAVE FOR SUCH AN EXCHANGE. ASENCIO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EAST WEST TRADE, TRADE DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA08321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760265-0428
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760781/aaaacsqv.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 157039
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN TRADE WITH VENEZUELA
TAGS: EEWT, XG, XK, XR, XS, CU, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006